

BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
DOCKET NO. 92-660-C - ORDER NO. 93-257  
MARCH 16, 1993

|   |   |                    |
|---|---|--------------------|
| IN RE: Application of Metro Mobile CTS of | ) | ORDER GRANTING     |
| Columbia, Inc. for a Certificate of       | ) | CERTIFICATE OF     |
| Public Convenience and Necessity.         | ) | PUBLIC CONVENIENCE |
|   | ) | AND NECESSITY      |

On December 7, 1992, Metro Mobile CTS of Columbia, Inc. (MMCTS or the Company) filed an Application with the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to operate as a Radio Common Carrier for provision of Domestic Public Cellular Radio Telecommunications Service to the public in Calhoun and Orangeburg Counties, South Carolina, which represents a portion of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) designated South Carolina Rural Service Area No. 7 (S.C. RSA No. 7) and for approval of its tariff for such service. The Company has applied to and received from the FCC authority to provide Domestic Public Cellular Radio Telecommunications Service in S.C. RSA No. 7 on an interim basis until such time as a permanent non-wireline carrier is approved by the FCC.

By letter the Commission's Executive Director instructed the Company to publish a prepared Notice of Filing, one time, in a newspaper of general circulation, in the area affected by the

Company's Application. The Notice of Filing indicated the nature of the Company's Application and advised all interested parties desiring participation in the scheduled proceeding of the manner and time in which to file the appropriate pleadings. No Protests or Petitions to Intervene were received. Thereafter, the verified testimony of Jack Plating, Vice President of MMCTS was received. The Commission holds that the formal hearing in this matter will be dispensed with and the sworn testimony of Plating be adopted as the hearing in this matter.

The testimony of Plating shows that the FCC has held that two cellular carriers, a wireline carrier, and a non-wireline carrier will serve as the designated RSA's throughout the United States. The FCC conducted lotteries to determine which wireline and non-wireline carriers will be given the opportunities to serve each RSA. Through this lottery process, Cellular Phones of Aiken/Augusta became the designated wireline carrier. The S.C. RSA No. 7 is comprised of Orangeburg, Calhoun, Bamberg, Barnwell, and Allendale Counties. On May 5, 1987, this Company was granted authority by the Commission in Docket No. 86-624-C, Order No. 87-463 to begin operation.

The Application of the winner of the non-wireline lottery for permanent authorization in S.C. RSA No. 7 was dismissed by the FCC. As a result, S.C. RSA No. 7 has no permanent non-wireline cellular provider, and no Application for permanent authority is currently pending before the FCC. Although interim authority in portions of S.C. RSA No. 7 has been granted by the FCC and this

Commission, the portions of S.C. RSA No. 7 covered by the instant Application are not served as a result of those grants of interim authority. The interim authority requested by the Application is being sought because it is anticipated that it would be some time before the FCC awards permanent operating authority in this portion of S.C. RSA No. 7, composed of Calhoun and Orangeburg Counties.

The portion of S.C. RSA No. 7 in Orangeburg and Calhoun Counties, and covered by the Application, is immediately adjacent to the Columbia MSA (Metropolitan Service Area) in which the Applicant operates a non-wireline system for MMCTS. The Applicant, as a result, according to Plating, can effectuate economies of scale, in the early initiation of service by employing a single switch, and unified management, accounting and marketing structure, all of which are already in place to provide service to these portions of S.C. RSA No. 7. The Applicant's capabilities presently existing in the Columbia MSA together with facilities proposed in the application will be sufficient to provide, according to Plating, that portion of S.C. RSA No. 7 inclusive of Orangeburg and Calhoun Counties with non-wireline cellular service promptly and continuously.

The Applicant has received from the FCC the authority to provide Domestic Cellular Radio Telecommunications Service in Orangeburg and Calhoun Counties on an interim basis. In its deliberations, and Final Order, the FCC specifically determined that the Applicant is financially qualified under its Rules and

Regulations to provide this service. This determination by the FCC was based upon the Applicant's demonstration of its financial ability to construct and operate the proposed cellular system. Also, since 1987, the Applicant has provided a full range of cellular services to its customers in the Columbia MSA in a responsible and efficient manner according to Plating. This along with the appropriate balance sheets presented to the Commission, according to Plating, demonstrates a fitness, willingness, and ability to finance and operate the cellular system proposed in Orangeburg and Calhoun Counties. Further, Plating proposes a particular tariff of rates for use in the area.

The Commission has examined this testimony, the Application, and the evidence of record, and is convinced that the Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity should be granted to Metro Mobile CTS of Columbia, Inc. on an interim basis to operate the non-wireline cellular system in Orangeburg and Calhoun Counties. The testimony of Plating demonstrates the Applicant's fitness, willingness, and ability to operate the system, and its experience in operating non-wireline cellular systems. The Commission also believes the tariff as proposed by the Company should be approved.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. The Application of Metro Mobile CTS of Columbia, Inc. for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to operate a non-wireline cellular system in Orangeburg and Calhoun Counties on an interim basis is hereby approved.

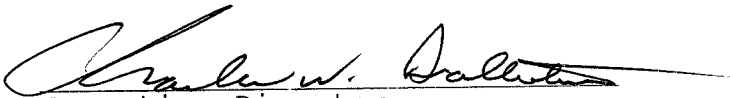
2. That the Applicant is allowed to concur in and apply Columbia Cellular Telephone Company's S.C.PSC Tariff No. 1 which was initially approved by the Commission in Docket No. 86-457-C including any subsequently approved revision to any authorized services provided in RSA No. 7.<sup>1</sup>

3. That this Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

  
Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Executive Director

(SEAL)

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1. The Applicant is a General Partner in Columbia Cellular Telephone Company.